

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

25X1

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

25X1

1. On 29 December 1951, the approaches to the Infanterie Kaserne, the Pionier Kaserne and the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on Rudolf Breitscheidstrasse and Semlinerstrasse, Rathenow (N 53/Z 15), were blocked to civilian traffic from the junction of Breitscheidstrasse with Semlinerstrasse and the Nordbahnhof, thus civilians could not approach closer than 200 meters to the billeting area. On 10 January 1952, about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were seen assembling at mess call in the Infanterie Kaserne. In addition, 75 officers with artillery insignia and about 75 uniformed women were seen walking to the installation's mess.

25X1

25X1

[redacted] No training activity was noticed at Semlin Heath.

2. Between 28 December 1951 and 4 January 1952, about 600 trained troops, 150 recruits and 80 officers were seen assembling for mess call in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on Semlinerstrasse. All of the troops observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The activities in the billeting area included driver training and maintenance of motor vehicles and artillery pieces. A total of 53 guns of from 122-mm to 152-mm were seen in the garages and gun sheds. Eight caterpillar tractors, [redacted] were noticed in front of the garages.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

[redacted] On 10 January, [redacted] a close-combat range containing dummy houses had been established south of the installation.

25X1

3. Troops assembling for mess call in the Pionier Kaserne on Rudolf Breitscheidstrasse between 28 December 1951 and 4 January 1952 numbered 70 officers and 450 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets. There were apparently no recruits. No training activity was noticed in the billeting area and the adjoining training area. About 45 artillery pieces of approximately 100-mm were definitely seen in the gun sheds. The sheds had an estimated capacity of 60 guns. About 30 mortars were parked in one section of the billeting area.

25X1

25X1

FS

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

Document No. 3

Classified []

Declassified []

Class. Changed By []

Auth.: []

Date: 11-9-78

25X1

SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

4. On 17 January, an undetermined number of recruits engaged in record practice with rifles, and about 50 uniformed women in record practice with pistols, in the training area of Semlin Heath. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] residents whose houses overlooked the billeting area of the Infanterie Kaserne, the Pionier Kaserne and the Kraftfahrer Kaserne had been served eviction orders. Even the residents of makeshift houses and winterized garden sheds, which were definitely unsuitable for the billeting of military personnel received notice. A military police car continuously patrolled the restricted streets around the billeting area after nightfall. (1)

5. On 10 January, the Marinosiedlung (settlement), west of the road to Semlin, was occupied by about 200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The settlement contained 3 low wooden barracks buildings with dimensions similar to former Reich Labor Service quarters, 3 wooden sheds containing weapons and prime movers, 1 wooden shed storing ammunition, and 1 newly established target range of six lanes for small arms and a seventh lane apparently designed for mortar firing. Power and telephone lines to all of the buildings were under construction. (2)

6. Uniformed women were seen in two apartment houses bordering the north side of the Pionier Kaserne. Further houses north and west of the Pionier Kaserne were to be vacated by their civilian residents in order to serve as billets for uniformed women.

7. On 22 January, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on Semliner Strasse quartered about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The gun shed in the northern section of the billeting area was still filled to capacity with guns of various calibers. About 80 soldiers were seen receiving instruction on four 122-mm field howitzers coupled to caterpillar tractors in the barracks yard on 4 January.

25X1

8. On 23 January, the Pionier Kaserne on Rudolf Breitscheidstrasse was occupied by about 300 to 400 troops, wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Troops were seen servicing about 120 trucks in the newly erected sheds in the billeting area. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

9. On 23 January, the Infanterie Kaserne near the Nordbahnhof quartered about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. A daily average of about 200 troops were seen drilling in the billeting area between 5 and 12 January. No training activity was noticed from 15 to 23 January. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

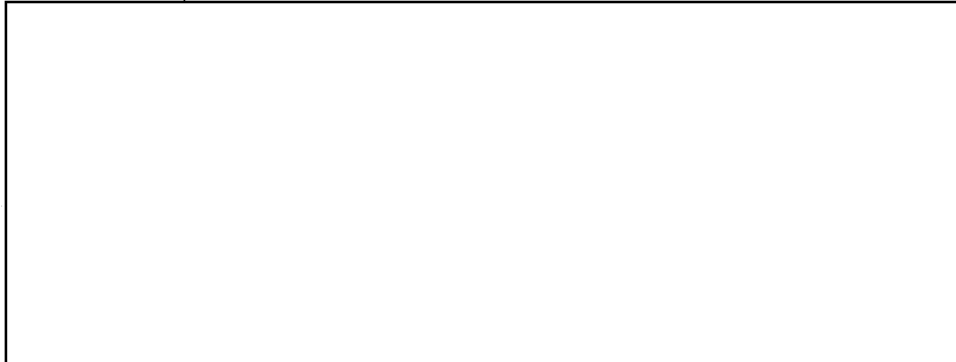
SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET/CONTROL/NO OFFICIALS ONLY

3

25X1

25X1



11. On 27 December 1951, about 100 recruits [redacted] wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, conducted an entraining practice with 1 x 122-mm field howitzer, 2 x 160-mm mortars, and 3 trucks at the Rathenow-Mord railroad station. (3)

25X1

12. On 17 January, numerous troops with red-bordered black epaulets were seen in a group of houses on the street and on the railroad line to Brandenburg (W 53/Z 23), 3 km south-southwest of the Rathenow railroad station. A sentry with red-bordered black epaulets and several trucks were also noticed there.

25X1

(1) The number of artillery brigades in Rathenow and their location in the individual barracks installations has not been determined to date to a satisfactory degree. [redacted] The observation of 30 mortars in the Pionier Kaserne is indicative of the 65th (?) Mort Brig there. However, the present and the reference report indicate that the installation may also quarter components of the 10th (?) Gun Arty Brig and that the Kraftfahrer Kaserne and possibly the Infanterie Kaserne are likely to quarter other artillery units, probably howitzer artillery units,

25X1

[redacted] There has been little information since the fall of 1950 regarding weapons in the Infanterie Kaserne, [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] were indicative of a headquarters, telephone training, etc. The headquarters concerned could only be the Hq 6th Arty Div, because the Hq IV Arty Corps is carried in the Biethon Kaserne. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

(2) It has not been determined whether the Marinesiedlung is the Marine-arsenal which is known as an ammunition depot. [redacted]

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL/NO OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

4

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

Khesnikov (fnu) mentioned in the present report is probably one Captain Chesnokov (fnu) who was previously identified as head of Kech office in Neuruppin.

(4) This billeting area is reported for the first time.

(5) [redacted] the rocket launchers belong to the 25th RL Brig or Regt.

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY